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Letter from Anna Clemson to Floride Clemson, 1855 May 6

Anna Marie Calhoun Clemson

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The Home May 5th 1855-A.
C626

My dear daughter,

I received your letter last evening, & was much pleased & interested by it, as we all were, & glad to find you had enjoyed yourself so much at the May party, of which we shall expect a full account when you return. I regret, however to see, you wish to remain longer, for I think you might want to see us a little by this time. I should have preferred your returning this week, but leave it to your auntie, to exercise her discretion, in waiting for the opportunity she speaks of, if no good one offer in the meantime. I got a letter from your aunt North yesterday, in which she speaks very kindly of you, & says you are a very good girl, but she says you do not eat anything. This surprises & worries me, for either your health is suffering from the sedentary life you lead, or you have taken up the foolish idea of making yourself look delicate by starvation, & such

me² and has only done such things as any one else could do. We still think she is going to Baltimore, to Rocky's mother, but she tells no one her plans. They are more devoted than ever, & he seems quite worried at her departure.

The grey squirrels are both dead, but there are two flying squirrels in their place, which I hope may live. Kitty & Minetta have both had kittens but as we have cats enough, I had them all drowned except one of Kitty's.

All the feathered tribe are prosperous, but Papa spends most of his life, with Nelly, in driving them of his wheat & the oats he has just planted in the orchard.

All the new part of the house is nicely painted, & they are engaged in scraping the kitchen, to paint that, which will be a great improvement. The poultry house is also painted. I have filled my sheet & must stop.

All send much love to you.

Give my love to your grandmother, aunts, and Katie.

Your devoted mother

Anna C. Clemson,

as I used to try and restrain you, because I feared you eat too much, especially meat & gravies, for your health, I prefer to see you eat a little too much, rather than starve yourself. Learn in this, as in all things, my dear child, to avoid extremes. If you have really no appetite, take care of yourself, & be careful of your bowels. How are your headaches? I was sorry you had one at the party.

I had a letter from your auntie Cornelia last week, in which she mentions the death of your poor uncle Willie's wife. It was a release to her, poor thing, from much suffering, & she never could have recovered, but he was so devoted to her, it will go very hard with him. I have written him to come on and see us. Suppose you write him to tell him how sorry you are. He loves you so much, it will gratify him. If you do, send your letter to me open, & I will forward it for you.

Grandmama & auntie are quite well, & very happy in their new home. They want

us all to come on and see them but that is impossible.

You do not mention Miss Leslie. I hope you have been to see her, & gave her much love for me. If you have not, do so at once without fail. You must be sure to go to your uncle Baker's for a few days at least. I had a letter from Annie. Ellen, in which she says they all want you to go, & speaks very kindly of you. Give my love to Annie, & tell her I will write her soon, but I think she had better take you & come on & see us. We should be so pleased to have her.

Eliza is going in a few days - perhaps tomorrow. You know she said she would go in a month, & her time is up now. I am really glad she is going, for she is becoming insupportable, and even my patience is worn out at last by her constant ill humour - besides which she quarrelled so with the other servants, that I expected every day they would leave. You know that for some time past she has been of little real use to